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APPROVALS

EG&G ROCKY FLATS

ROCKY FLATS, INC.

ROCKY FLATS PLANT, P.O. BOX 464, GOLDEN, COLORADO 80402-0464 • (303)

March 30, 1992

Robert M. Nelson, Jr. Manager DOE, RFO



ELEVATED ALPHA ACTIVITY LEVELS REPORTED BY COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (CDH) SAMPLER D-4 - JMK-0225-92

As presented at the February 25, 1992, Monthly State Exchange Meeting, radiological ambient air sampling conducted by the Colorado Department of Health (CDH) indicated elevated levels of gross alpha values. Specifically, two CDH samples for location D-4 (see attachment 1.0), near the southeast corner of the main plant security area, were elevated for the sampling periods January 24 through January 28, (0.024 pCi/m³) and January 28 through January 31 (0.038 pCi/m³). The concentrations are about five to ten times higher than the typical measurements at this and most other Rocky Flats locations. Gross beta activity concentrations were at normal levels. The measurements are associated with above-normal particulates collected on the sample filters; the radioactivity concentrations per gram of particulates appeared typical. Airborne radioactivity concentrations at other onsite locations and at the Rocky Flats Plant perimeter locations were within typical ranges, indicating a localized resuspension phenomenon. CDH indicated in their Monthly Report that there is no reason to believe that there is any imminent hazard to either RFP employees or to the offsite population.

My Environmental Management staff has evaluated this situation and agrees with CDH's determination on hazard potential and that these elevated measurements are possibly due to localized resuspension. Airborne radioactivity concentrations at other onsite locations and at the Rocky Flats Plant perimeter locations were within typical ranges. Average wind speed during this time period was 7.5 miles per hour and is not considered a major factor in this event.

Work crews conducting various remediation program activities in the 903 Pad/881 Hillside areas follow a strict protocol to minimize dust resuspension from their activities. The Plan for Prevention of Contaminant Dispersion (PPCD) is an active program for all Operable Unit (OU) Work Plans. Initial reviews indicate that the PPCD was being followed during the time period in question. Both subcontractors performing work in the vicinity of OU-1 and OU-2 have been reminded to follow all dust suppression efforts as outlined in the PPCD.

CDH is performing plutonium-specific analyses on the samples in question, and samples from nearby RFP sites are currently undergoing plutonium-specific analyses by our Building 123 onsite laboratory. These data sets will be compared when results are available and will be subsequently provided for your review.

M. Kersh, Associate General Manager **Environmental and Waste Management**

RJC:aym

Orig. and 1 cc - R. M. Nelson, Jr.

Attachment: As Stated

REVIEWED FOR CLASSIC CONTINUE G. T. Ostdiek DATE

